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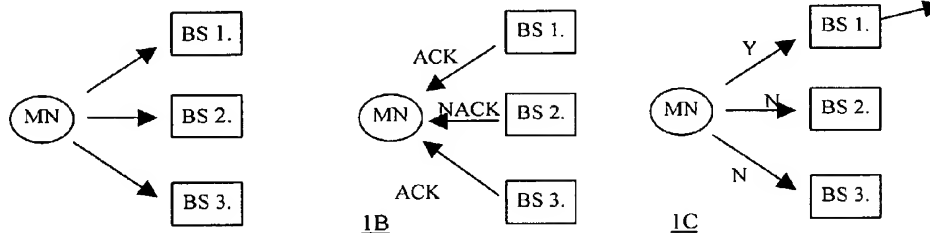
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(54) Title: FAST HARD HANDOVER SCHEME AND MOBILE STATION AND BASE STATION SUPPORTING SUCH SCHEME



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method, mobile station and base station in a soft handover cellular communications system. A problem addressed is the complexity imposed by a soft handover combination node in the network for combining packets received from one mobile station over parallel diversity links. The combination node is a problem with respect to the network complexity, transmission capacity and retransmission delays. The present invention solves the problem by selecting on a packet-by-packet basis one of an active set base stations for forwarding the packet further uplink. Thereby no combination node in the network is needed. The mobile stations select the base station after transmitting a packet or prior to transmitting it. The selection is based on measures of the radio link qualities made during transmission of the relevant packet or made prior to its transmission.

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